Silent night-Holy night

"Silent Night! Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child,
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleeps in heavenly peace,
Sleeps in heavenly peace."

June 3 1929 am.

THE POETIC GENIUS OF JESUS

INTRO. Some will remember the splendid address of Prof. Wenniger on "The Poetry Of The Psalms". His illustrations of Hebrew forms of poetry-Synonymous, Antithetic and Synthetic Paralellisms and his examples of Hebrew rythm- the 4-beat, the 3-beat, and the Kina. He also spoke of certain forms of stress peculiar to Hebrew poetry.

Every one of these Hebrew forms of poetry can be illustrated from the sayings of Jesus, as strikingly and as truely poetic in their forms of expression as they can from the Psalms. The Aramaic lanugaue, spoken by the Jews in the time of Christ, leds itslf most readily to these Hebrew types of poetic expression. Hastily just a few examples:

Synonymous Paralellism -

Mk. 10:38 Can ye drink of the cup which I drink?
Or be baptized with the baptism wherewith I am baptized?

Mk. 4:22 There is nothing hid that shall not be made manifest,
Nor secret that shall not come to light.

/Mk. Mt. 7:8-8

Ask and it shall be given you:
Seek and ye shall find;
Knock and it shall be opened unto you.

For every one that asketh receiveth;
And he that seeketh findeth;
And to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

~~Antithetic Paralellism.~~

Jn. 14:27

Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.

Antithetic Paralellism

Mtt. 7:17

Every good tree bringeth forth good fruits,
But the corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruits

Mk.2:27 The sabbath was made for man,
And not man for the sabbath.

Mk.17:3 If thy brother sin, rebuke him,
If he repent, forgive him.

Jn.4:13,14 Every one that drinketh this water
shall thirst again,
But whosoever shall drink of the water that
I shall give him shall never thirst.

Synthetic or Constructive Paralessism.

Mtt.23:5#10
They make broad their phylacteries,
And enlarge their fringes.

And love the chief place at the feasts,
And the chief seats in the synagogues,

And the salutations in the market-places,
And to be called of men Rabbi.

But be not ye called Rabbi
For one is your teacher,
And all ye are brethren.

And call no man your father on earth;
For One is your Father, the heavenly.

Neither be ye called masters;
For One is your Master, even Christ.

Step Paralelism
Mk.9:37, Mtt.18:5, Lk.9:48
He that receiveth this child in my name, receiveth me;
And he that receiveth me, receiveth him that sent me.

Jn.11:25
He that believeth on me, tho he were dead, shall live
And he that liveth and believeth on me shall never die

Examples of rythm and rhyme difficult tp present in our translations from the Aramaic, but in the language which our Lord used many of his expressions flow forth in perfect rythm and some of them in perfect rhyme as well

The Lordás Prayer in 4-beat rythm

Our Fáther in heáven, hállowed be thy náme;
Thy kíngdom cóme; thy wíll be dóne,
Ás in the heávens, só on eárth.

Our dáily bréad give ús to-dáy;
And forgíve us our débts, as we forgíve our débtors
And lead us not into témptátion but delíver us frm
évil.

The Beatitudes in 3-beat mythm, also in perfect rhyme.
And many other precious passages.

Also, the sayings of Jesus abound in the use of figures of speech common to all true poetry-metaphors, similes, metonymies, personifications, apostrophes, exclamations, etc. The ~~poetic~~ masterful use of parable and allegory alone ////// reveal a poetic genius beyond the ordinary.

But my message to you has nothing to do with the forms of expression which Jesus used. I merely make mention of them to indicate that ////// Christ expressed himself in terms of artistic beauty as much in keeping with true poetry as any that can be found in the O.T., either in the Psalms, or the Prophets or Wisdom literature.

The recognized canons of poetic art demand that the truth conveyed must /// contain a profound interpretation of life that is vital and fundamental. Browning said, "God is the perfect poet." Then he who reveals to the world the heart of God that we may know and live the abundant life of God in the kingdom of His love and goodness must possess poetic insight to unlimited extent. On this basis /// Jesus must be recognized as THE POETIC GENIUS OF ALL AGES.

I. THE IDEALISM OF JESUS.

1. The greatest gifts which the poets bestoy upon the world are the Ideals which they set up, their vision of something greater, nobler and purer than has yet been attained in present life. As we press on

towards the goal of achievement, it is the ideal that beckons us on, that fires us to achieve the impossible and lift the human race to still higher levels of living. The ideals of poetic vision and insight, of expectation and hope give to humanity its most powerful incentives to strive and struggle ever onward and upward. They mark the milposts of human progress. "Where there is no vision the people perish."

2 Our thinking educators define Spirituality as the response of the will to the ideal order. Royce in his "Analysis of Salvation", defines salvation as idealizing personality and achieving it.

Jesus' way of living is the highest ideal of Life ever conceived by the mind of man. Christ teaches us that we are all potentially children of God, that thru the Spirit we may have fellowship with ourHeavenly Father and are priveleged to help God do His work: that we are members of one Family and should act towards one another as brothers and express our brotherhood in service one to another: that we may realize our sonship to God by surrender of our wills to the divine will, by which surrender we secure our greatest liberty and freedom.

Christ elevates the commonplace and invests ordinary life with dignity and beauty, lifting the hungering and thirsting soul of man to the infinite and eternal sources of satisfaction.

People who live in mountainous regions are generally men of independent and vigoroue character. Subject as they are to physical exertion and the up-lifted look, they naturally become so. Likewise, when we live in the atmosphere and surroundings of high moral and spiritual ideals, we are made strong and vigorous. Such ideals are iron to the blood and strength to the moral tissues of the soul. It is not to be wondered that Jesus Christ is still the greatest inppiration to the thinking leadership of the world, and the strongest potency in the forces making for righteousness today.

II. OPTIMISM.

1. It takes infinite confidence and hope to set up ideals such as Jesus held before the world.

Some of the ethnic religions contain flashes of insight and gropings after a future destiny,